Application No.: 10/688852 Docket No.: SMCY-P02-098

Remarks

Claims 10-13, 14/10 and 16/10 - 21/10 have been allowed.

Claims 7/2, 14/1, 14/2, 20/1 and 22 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

Claim 1 has been rewritten by including the subject matter of claim 14/1,

Claim 2 has been rewritten by including the subject matter of claim 14/2,

Claims 7 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of original claim 2.

New independent claim 23 has been added which includes the subject matter of original independent claim 1 and allowable claim 20/1.

The retained dependent claim depend from the amended claims 1 and 2 and should be allowable for the same reasons that these claims are allowable.

Claims 1-23 remain in the application.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

We believe that we have appropriately provided for fees due in connection with this submission. However, if there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. SMCY-P02-098 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 26, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Wolfgang E. Stortius

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